



2011-313

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 7, 2011

11-NWP-066

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Request to Review Draft Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Documents,
dated June 3, 2011

Dear Ms. Leckband:

Thank you for the kind words recognizing the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) ongoing dialogue with the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) to make the draft Hanford Site-wide Permit (Permit) more understandable and accessible.

The Board requested an early review and comment opportunity on draft SEPA documents related to the draft Permit. The Board is interested in seeing these materials prior to the public review period for the draft Permit.

Some permit decisions rest on previously completed SEPA determinations. Those determinations are enclosed for your review. The SEPA determinations for other decisions will become draft as soon as Ecology signs them. We will send copies of those new determinations to the Board.

The signed SEPA determinations are considered draft because they will include a statement that Ecology will not take action on the proposal (addressed by the SEPA determination) until the end of the public comment period. The public comment period on SEPA will be concurrent with the public comment period on the draft Permit.

When Ecology signs the SEPA determinations, we will include links to them on our permit web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/sections/wasteman/sitewide/pages/DWP_status.html. They will also be summarized on the state's SEPA register.

The Board also requested advance review and comment opportunities on the draft SEPA checklists for each unit. The SEPA checklists are much longer than the SEPA determinations, and it was not practical to copy and send each checklist to the Board. However, those checklists are available on-line. Ecology did a "Simple Search" at the United States Department of Energy Administrative Record and Public Information Repository using "SEPA" and found 537 records.



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The completed, more extensive National Environmental Policy Act and SEPA reviews are too lengthy to enclose, so we have listed them below, along with links to the online versions.

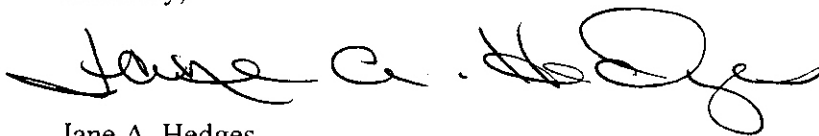
1. Two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) support the disposal of defueled submarine reactor compartments in Trench 94.
<http://nepa.energy.gov/documents/EIS-0119.pdf>
<http://nepa.energy.gov/finalEIS-0259.htm>
2. The Tank Waste Remediation System EIS supports building and operating the vitrification plant and continued storage in double-shell tanks.
<http://nepa.energy.gov/finalEIS-0189.htm>
3. The Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS is under way. The draft is available now.
<http://nepa.energy.gov/1148.htm>

Deciding how to close the tank farms is a big decision, and it does need an EIS. To address the concern in your letter's third paragraph, we will wait for the final Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS before making final decisions about tank closure.

We will continue our dialogue with the Board's permit issue managers when they meet next. We look forward to continuing this discussion.

If you have questions regarding this letter please call John Price at 509-372-7921.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

Enclosures (17)

cc w/enc:

Dennis Faulk, EPA
Matt McCormick, USDOE
Scott Samuelson, USDOE
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Ken Niles, ODOE
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal